

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A toner for use in an image-forming apparatus equipped with an oil-less fixing unit comprising a main heating member and a pressing member, the main heating member gets in contact with the back of an unfixed toner on a recording medium and fixes the unfixed toner at a nip part of the main heating member and the pressing member, the main heating member and the pressing member define a boundary surface thereof, and the surface takes a configuration protruding toward the side of the main heating member,

wherein the toner comprises a resin comprising a block polyester and an amorphous polyester;

wherein the toner has an initial relaxation modulus $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) at 120°C , in relaxation time of 0.01 (sec), of $G(t=0.01)$ [Pa] $\geq 1.0 \times 10^5$ [Pa]; and

wherein the toner has a ratio of $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) to $G(t=0.1)$ (Pa) at 180°C , in relaxation time of 0.1 sec, of $[G(t=0.01)/G(t=0.1)] \geq 20$.

2. (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 3 wt.% or less.

3. (currently amended): A toner for use in an image-forming apparatus equipped with an oil-less fixing unit comprising a main heating member and a pressing member, the main heating member gets in contact with the back of an unfixed toner on a recording

medium and fixes the unfixed toner at a nip part of the main heating member and the pressing member, the main heating member and the pressing member define a boundary surface thereof, and the surface takes a configuration protruding toward the side of the main pressing member,

wherein the toner comprises a resin comprising a block polyester and an amorphous polyester;

~~wherein~~ the toner has an initial relaxation modulus $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) at 120°C , in relaxation time of 0.01 (sec), of $G(t=0.01)$ [Pa] $\geq 1.0 \times 10^5$ [Pa]; and

~~wherein~~ the toner has an initial relaxation modulus $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) at 180°C , in relaxation time of 0.01 (sec), of $G(t=0.01)$ [Pa] $\geq 1.0 \times 10^4$ [Pa].

4. (original): The toner according to claim 3, wherein the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 3 wt.% or less.

5. (new): An image-forming apparatus comprising:

an oil-less fixing unit comprising a main heating member and a pressing member;
and

a toner,

wherein the toner has an initial relaxation modulus $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) at 120°C , in relaxation time of 0.01 (sec), of $G(t=0.01)$ [Pa] $\geq 1.0 \times 10^5$ [Pa]; and a ratio of $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) to $G(t=0.1)$ (Pa) at 180°C , in relaxation time of 0.1 sec, of $[G(t=0.01)/G(t=0.1)] \geq 20$;

the main heating member is in contact with the side of a recording medium opposite to the side on which the toner is provided to fix the toner at a nip part of the main heating member and the pressing member; and

the main heating member and the pressing member define a boundary surface thereof, and the boundary surface takes a configuration protruding toward the side of the main heating member.

6. (new): The image-forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 3 wt.% or less.

7. (new): An image-forming apparatus comprising:
an oil-less fixing unit comprising a main heating member and a pressing member; and
a toner,

wherein the toner has an initial relaxation modulus $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) at 120°C , in relaxation time of 0.01 (sec), of $G(t=0.01)$ [Pa] $\geq 1.0 \times 10^5$ [Pa]; and a initial relaxation modulus $G(t=0.01)$ (Pa) at 180°C , in relaxation time of 0.01 (sec), of $G(t=0.01)$ [Pa] $\geq 1.0 \times 10^4$ [Pa];

the main heating member is in contact with the side of a recording medium opposite to the side on which the toner is provided to fix the toner at a nip part of the main heating member and the pressing member; and

the main heating member and the pressing member define a boundary surface thereof, and the boundary surface takes a configuration protruding toward the side of the main pressing member.

8. (new): The image-forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 3 wt.% or less.